

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 /078 W

-----012185 031752Z /43

O R 031710Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1606

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 3745

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PDEV, NA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. THE NAMIBIAN NATIONAL FRONT (NNF), IS FACING A  
DIFFICULT DECISION ON WHAT POSITION TO TAKE ON THE  
ON-GOIN REGISTRATION OF VOTERS. BRYAN O'LINN TOLD  
US THAT THE NNF OPPOSES THE REGISTRATION AS UNILATERAL  
AND PREMATURE, BUT IF SWAPO DOES NOT ACCEPT THE WESTERN  
PROPOSAL, THE ELECTION WILL BE HELD ON THE BASIS OF THE  
CURRENT REGISTRATION AND NNF SUPPORTERS WILL NOT HAVE  
BEEN ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE. THE NNF WISHES TO  
RETAIN THE OPTION OF RAKING PART IN THE ELECTIONS IF  
SWAPO REFUSES AND IT IS CONSIDERING ENCOURAGING ITS  
SUPPORTERS TO REGISTER. IN THIS CONNECTION, O' LINN  
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SAID, THE NNF LAST WEEK ASKED FOR SEVERAL ASSURANCES  
FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL REGARDING THE REGISTRATION.  
ONE OF THESE WAS THAT RESIDENTS OF WALVIS BAY WHO  
QUALIFY WITH RESIDENCE IN WALVIS BAY SHOULD ALSO BE  
PERMITTED TO REGISTER. THE AG REPLIED THAT HE WOULD  
HAVE CONSULAT WITH THE SAG.

2. MEANWHILE, THE AG HAS TERMED SWAPO ALLEGATIONS THAT NAMIBIANS WERE BEING FORCED TO REGISTER AS "DELIBERATE NONSENSE." ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS OF JULY 1, THE AG SAID NOBODY WAS BEING PREVENTED OR COMPELLED TO REGISTER AND THE SAME WOULD APPLY TO VOTING IN THE ELECTION ITSELF. ON JUNE 28, THE AG ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID THAT POLITICAL LEADERS AND POLITICIANS TAKING PART IN SWA'S "FORTHCOMING ELECTION" WOULD BE GIVEN PERSONAL STATE PROTECTION.

3. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE COLORED ADVISORY COUNCIL OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA HAS PASSED A RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE AG TO DESOLVE ALL ETHNIC GOVERNMENTS. THE RESOLUTION WAS PROPOSED BY THE NNF'S, CHARLIE HARTUNG IN THE COLORED COUNCIL AND WAS ADOPTED BY FIVE VOTES TO TWO, WITH TWO MEMBERS OF THE RULING TURNHALLE AFFILIATED LABOR PARTY SUPPORTING THE MOTION. HARTUNG WAS QUOTED BY THE PRESS AS SAYING IT WAS ESSENTIAL TO ESTABLISH A CLIMATE IN THE TERRITORY CONDUCTIVE TO TRULY FREE AND JUST ELECTIONS AND THAT SCRAPPING OF THE COLORED COUNCIL AND OTHER ETHNIC GOVERNMENTS INCLUDING THE WHITE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY WERE NECESSARY TO PUT ALL POLITICAL GROUPS ON AN EQUAL FOOTING. HARTUNG ALSO CHARGED THAT THERE WERE "CERTAIN GROUPS" WHO WERE "HARPING ON AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT" AND HE EMPHASIZED THAT IT WAS ESSENTIAL TO OBTAIN INTERNATIONAL CONFIDENTIAL

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RECOGNITION.

4. NNF SOURCES TELL US THAT THE COUNCIL ALSO VOTED TO OUST A.J.F. KLOPPERS AS CHAIRMAN. THE DEFECTION OF THE TWO LABOR PARTY MEMBERS REFLECTS SLIPPAGE OF THE DTA AS WELL AS PERHAPS THE CONCEPT OF ETHNICITY IN THE COLORED COMMUNITY.

5. ALSO THIS PAST WEEK, BRYAN O'LINN IN A PUBLIC STATEMENT CONFIRMED THAT SHIPENGA WOULD BE RETURNING SOON TO NAMIBIA. AND PLANS TO MOVE AHEAD WITH PUBLICATION OF A NEW JOURNAL EXPECTED TO BE SYMPATHETIC TO THE NNF ARE MOVING AHEAD. KURT DAHLMAN WHO IS EXPECTED TO BE THE EDITOR OF THE NEW JOURNAL TOLD US THAT IT WOULD INITIALLY BE A WEEKLY, BUT EVENTUALLY WOULD BECOME A DAILY. MONEY FOR THE PROJECT, HE SAID, HAS COME PRIMARILY FROM THE CHURCHES.

6. ON THE TURNHALLE SIDE, KUAIMA RIRUAKO, ELECTED CHIEF OF THE HEREROS LAST MONTH (CAPETOWN 1171), HAS NOW BEEN SELECTED AS PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL UNITY DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATION (NUDO), THE HERERO COMPONENT

IN THE DTA. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS RIRUAKO IS NOW  
AIMING AT THE PRESIDENCY OF THE DTA. HIS PRINCIPAL  
COMPETITION IS THOUGHT TO BE DTA VICE PRESIDENT  
PASTOR CORNELIUS NDJOBA, CHIEF MINISTER OF OVAMBO.  
EDMONDSON

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## Message Attributes

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